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Commander changes up exercises

Airmen do more training to prepare for 2006 inspection

By 1st Lt. Ben Alumbaugh
374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The message is clear to Yokota Air Base. The Operational Readiness Inspection is approaching and there is still a lot of work to do to get ready.

Colonel Mark Schissler, 374th Airlift Wing commander, has made some "necessary" changes to the way Yokota exercises.

"We lost some valuable training on the last exercise," said Col. Schissler. "Instead of just powering through the planned scenario last exercise, I had to rescope about 36 hours of the week."

Because of the time lost Col. Schissler modified three days of the Full Spectrum Threat Response exercise April 18 through April 22 to make up for training that was lost.

"My desire is to see people learn the correct way to do things the first time and then be able to replicate

that performance many times," said Col. Schissler. "I think we got a great return on the training plan last week; many problems were solved and most Airmen learned a lot about processing and operating in a chemical environment."

During the FSTR and at the wrap-up, commanders and supervisors provided feedback in regards to how much their people appreciated the time to actually learn procedures and specific knowledge, said Col. Schissler.

Because of the feedback there will be a new approach to preparing Airmen during exercises.

"We will use Samurai Readiness days as a way to train. Airmen will have to exhibit the ability to properly use chemical warfare gear, use the Airman's Manual, and go through mobility lines," said Colonel Schissler. "Then during exercises we will bring all of the training together in real time. Op-



photo by Staff Sgt. Valda Wilson

Senior Aimen Amber Bullis and Carrie Johnson research information in the Airman's Manual during the exercise held here April 18 to 22. The Airmen are assigned to the 374th Medical Group.

erational Readiness Inspections and Operational Readiness Exercises have to be like real combat.

"Even though it's been said

before, we have to make people realize the expeditionary Air Force is a reality," added Colonel Schissler. "Any Airman can deploy

at a moments notice and it's our job as commanders to ensure each and every one of them is properly trained."

Wing command chief bids farewell to Yokota

374th AW's top Airman looks back on serving fellow Airmen

By Airman 1st Class Katie Thomas
Editor

The 374th Airlift Wing's top enlisted Airman is moving on after nearly two years.

Chief Master Sgt. Robert Wicks will bid farewell to Samurai Country in early May to serve as the 36th Air Expeditionary Wing's command chief at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam.

The chief said he doesn't have any regrets about his tenure. "Every day when I look back on it, I know that I gave it everything that I had.

"I wouldn't necessarily say, 'Well, I didn't make it today.' I would say that each day with this job there is always something more that can be done."

Chief Wicks said he felt the progress made in recognition programs such as the quarterly awards and senior airman "below-the-zone" boards was tremendous and

gives accolades to those who have earned it. In particular, the chief highlighted the integration of the tenant unit warriors, known as the Kensei, into the base-wide awards program.

The chief also said he felt most fulfilled in being their top enlisted representative.

"I was able to represent our people," he explained. "That was probably the biggest part of it and what gave me the biggest satisfaction. It wasn't a thing about me, but I was able to represent our people."

The chief also cited the growth of professional and personal development programs. He met with group enlisted superintendents weekly to outline goals and plans to develop the base's Airmen. These reflected the goals of the wing and its commander, he said.

"I don't know if I was completely successful," Chief Wicks said. "I would like to

believe that I was, but I will leave that signature stamp for our troops. If they feel that some of the things that they had a voice or say in are better today, then we did good."

Col. Mark Schissler, 374th Airlift Wing commander, said he chose Chief Wicks for the job in August 2003 after only a short interview.

"I have been so blessed by the loyal service of Chief Wicks for the last two years," he said. "He is the finest chief I have ever known and I would walk for days for the privilege of serving with him again. He and Shari are true friends who will be missed very much here.

"I believe his passion for leadership and always doing the right thing contributed directly to every success we've had since July 2003. He is easily the best enlisted leader I have ever seen in our Air Force."

Peer and friend, Chief Master Sgt. Gregory Hartzell, 374th Communications Squadron, said he will miss having the command chief's perspective and energy readily available here.

"Chief Wicks' concentration on building professional development forums, both formal and informal, was a non-stop train," he

explained. "He motivated others to 'raise the bar' of success and see how high they could climb. He provided the tools, provided the encouragement, and provided the vision for all enlisted to believe they could achieve new heights. Yokota Airmen have grown professionally, not through Chief Wicks, but because of Chief Wicks."

Chief Wicks encouraged Yokota's Samurai and Kensei warriors to work hard and focus on their jobs and how it relates to the wing's goals. He also cautioned Airmen to look at decisions they make in both short- and long-term perspectives.

"Remember that a good example is the best sermon," he said. "We are always an example to those who are in our civilian community, base community and units. We are always examples. How do you want the sermon to read? What will it read about you?"

"Whatever you are doing, do it with all your heart and soul and mind."

Chief Wicks said he thanks the wing commander and his fellow Airmen for the opportunity to serve.

After the two-year tour in Guam the chief said he plans on retiring with his wife Shari to the Southwest United States.

Parents invited to developmental fair

By Airman 1st Class Katie Thomas
Editor

The Educational and Developmental Intervention Services (EDIS) along with other helping agencies here want to help Yokota's children listen and speak better.

The agencies are hosting a "Communications Night" fair at the Family Support Center May 17 to spread the word about normal language and development, and autism.

Delmarine Anderson, a speech and language pathologist with EDIS, said community members can speak with helping agencies about their child's development and what services are available to them as parents.

Representatives from a support group for parents of autistic children will also be at the fair to offer their services and support to community members, she said.

Parents who are interested in helping organize and plan the fair can attend the Interagency Coordinating Council meeting May 4 at 3 p.m. in Bldg. 1374 in the east housing area. The council includes EDIS and other helping agencies that assist the base community with child development concerns.

For more information about this meeting or Communications Night, call 225-9993.



photo by Airman Javier Cruz Jr.

A different kind of pet show

(Left to Right) Senior Airman Jeffrey Galdikas, Airman 1st Class Ricky Sprague, Senior Airman Jessie Chapman, and Senior Airman Michael Henderson didn't win a prize for the stranded kitten they rescued from the walls of Bldg. 200 but community members can get their pets recognition in the First Yokota Pet Show. Like the CE Airmen, pet owners have the opportunity to show off their pets at the show May 14 at the Four Seasons beginning at 11 a.m. Categories include most talented, best trick, most unique pet and most patriotic. Listen to Eagle 810 for more information or call the veterinary clinic at 225-4363.

Volunteers to be recognized at banquet

By Michele Solomon
374th Mission Support Squadron

In 2004 Yokota Air Base had 2,050 volunteers whose combined efforts saved the base more than \$1 million. Each volunteer is estimated by the government to save the agency they are working for \$17.25 per hour.

Yokota volunteers worked 70,000 hours in 2004 for a variety of agencies such as: Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, base chapel, schools, American Red Cross, Air Mobil-

ity Command passenger terminal and the Family Support Center.

On May 6, the wing will be recognizing 24 volunteers at the annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony. These volunteers have been nominated by their agency supervisors because of the outstanding work that they do to help make Yokota a better place. The ceremony is important not only to those that have been nominated, but to all volunteers because it shows that Yokota cares about them.

There is not a lot required to be a vol-

unteer on Yokota. The Volunteer Resource Program located at the Family Support Center has the paperwork and the agency listing that will help get people established in the field that they feel would be beneficial to both themselves and the agency. AF Form 2805 is all that is required in most cases. Each agency will train the volunteer on the procedures and programs necessary to become a vital member of the team.

For more information contact the Family Support Center at 225-8725.

'Lifecycle Funds' aim to maximize retirement savings:

WASHINGTON (AFP) – Recent surveys

show most people contributing to Department of Defense-sponsored thrift savings accounts shun riskier investment options and are not getting maximum returns to build bigger retirement nest eggs, a DOD thrift savings plan specialist said.

"The vast majority of participants do not fully take advantage of the Thrift Savings Plan," said Army Lt. Col. Janet Fenton, executive director of the Armed Forces Tax Council.

The Thrift Savings Plan is a 401k-type program designed to provide tax-deferred retirement nest eggs for servicemembers and civilian employees. TSP managers have noticed "very few" participants transfer money out of more stable investment programs into riskier options.

NEWS AROUND THE AIR FORCE & PACAF

For these stories and more, visit Air Force Link at www.af.mil

Guard, Reserve leaders testify on Capitol Hill: WASHINGTON – The directors of the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve testified April 20 on readiness and management support before the Senate Armed Services Committee subcommittee.

Lt. Gen. Daniel James III, Air National Guard director, told senators he sees positive benefits to the community basing concept. "I look forward to a day when we will have community basing and we will have members coming to (a Guard base) and living in the community and flying there."

Community basing is currently being tested in Burlington, Vt. There, active-duty Airmen live among the local community, on the economy, and report daily to work with Airmen of the Vermont Air National Guard's 158th Fighter Wing.

C-130J testers accomplish first five-bundle sequential airdrop: EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif.

(AFP) – Developmental test and evaluation on the J-model C-130 Hercules came to a head when testers successfully completed the first five-bundle sequential low velocity airdrop here recently.

The 418th Flight Test Squadron Airmen tested software upgrades by rigging bundles and releasing them.

The bundles weighed 40,100 pounds and landed 1,000 feet apart and only five yards off the planned impact point. Before this test, the capability was limited to four bundles, said Tech. Sgt. Jason Kunkel, a 418th FLTS loadmaster.

"Right now, we're doing everything we need to do before the aircraft graduates to operational testing," he said. "By working closely with the contractor, we were able to identify and fix deficiencies to ensure the Air Force received a workable system."

AD

Community celebrates local Pacific heritage

By Capt. Laura Ramos
730th Air Mobility Squadron

May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and gives Americans of Asian or Pacific Islander heritage the opportunity to share their pride and showcase the beauty of their culture.

This month was chosen because it commemorates the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants to the United States in 1843. Initially celebrated as a week long event

in 1979, President George H. W. Bush expanded the celebration to a month long event in 1990.

The month's activities will kick-off with a ribbon- and cake-cutting ceremony May 2 at noon at the Yokota Community Center. On May 14 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., the commissary will host a free cooking demonstration and food tasting event.

May 21 marks the most popular event, which is the cultural show at the Taiyo Recreation Center. This event will take

place from noon to 3 p.m. and will feature food samples and entertainment from various Asian Pacific cultures.

The following day, May 22, there will be an adult co-ed volleyball tournament, which is open to any organization on base.

The final event for the month will be a luncheon is May 26 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Enlisted Club. The guest speaker will be Maj. Benjamin Kam, staff orthopedic surgeon at the 374th Medical Group.

While all of these events are taking

place, everyone is encouraged to view the Asian-Pacific Islander display at the base library featuring artifacts from various countries, as well as the display featured in the YCC. Each school is also hosting a poster and essay contest. All students are encouraged to participate. Prizes will be awarded and winners will be recognized at the luncheon.

For more information about each event, please contact Lt. Cynthia Flores at 225-4126 or cynthia.flores@yokota.af.mil.

Yokota youth put best 'fine arts' foot forward

Students share talents in painting to poetry with base community during several events

By Airman 1st Class Katie Thomas
Editor

Yokota students are expressing themselves through everything from music to the written word.

Events celebrating their talents are scheduled throughout the following weeks, including an art exhibition and a poetry reading night.

Nearly 170 music students

from 13 schools across the Pacific Command kick off the celebration tonight during the 26th Annual Far East Music Festival Concert at 7 p.m. at the Taiyo Recreation Center. Students auditioned for the concert during November 2004, said Department of Defense Dependents Schools officials here. The United States Air Force Band judged instrumentalists, while music educators selected vocalists.

Yokota High School advanced placement art students will show off their portfolios during an art exhibition at the Officers' Club Tuesday beginning at 7 p.m. The artwork will then be on display at the school's information center for one week. The community is encouraged to come out to support the base's young artists, said Jennifer Saucedo, advanced placement art teacher.

Students and teachers then

take on the 3rd Annual Poetry Night Wednesday at the base high school's information center beginning at 6:30 p.m. Readers will share their original poetry with community members during the event.

The Yokota Middle School is hosting a concert featuring its band and chorus Thursday beginning at 7 p.m. in the school's multi-purpose room. The event will be celebrating its students' successes.

The Missoula Children's Theater is sponsoring a musical opportunity here. The company will hold auditions for its production of "The Frog Prince" May 9

at 2:45 p.m. at Yokota West Elementary School. Youth selected for the production will attend rehearsals May 10 to 13 from 2:45 to 7:15 p.m. at the Yokota Middle School.

The U.S. Band of the Pacific-Asia is hosting a musical recital May 12 at 6:30 p.m. at the Officers' Club with the award winners of their annual Young Artists Competition. Students will team up with band members to perform several pieces for the community free of charge.

Community members can consult the organization that is hosting the event for more information.

AD

Base Airman has 'bilateral' blast

Senior NCO shares experience at local cherry blossom festival

By Master Sgt. Dwayne Mosbey
374th Communications Squadron

Growing up my parents always told me to, "treat others like you wanted to be treated" and like most of you I thought I knew what that meant.

But let me tell you, I had no idea what this phrase meant until I attended the Sakura Festival at Kumagaya Air Station.

I realized that this could be a good thing, especially since my family and I had recently

arrived at Yokota from Ramstein Air Base, Germany, and this would be a perfect opportunity for us to see something in Japan besides the food court in the Yokota Community Center.

From the moment we arrived at Kumagaya, we were treated like VIPs. Our bus was greeted by a six-member delegation representing the Kumagaya Japanese Air Self Defense Force Senior Noncommissioned Officer Association.

We were treated to an amazing drill performance by approximately 40 teenage cadets and watched the JASDF Band.

We also saw a ground display of the latest Japanese military equipment where each display was explained in English on its purpose and operation.

To say that I was overwhelmed by their hospitality and generosity would be an understatement.

Let me put this into context for you, most of the JASDF members assigned did not speak English, nor did I speak Japanese, but at no time was there a misunderstanding or miscommunication.

My wife was so overwhelmed by the hospitality extended to us by the JASDF Senior NCO Association that she volunteered to sponsor a JASDF family whenever Yokota hosted another Fifth Air Force bilateral event.

This was without a doubt one of the best experiences of my 18-year career.

Strengthening our ties with our JASDF counterparts is a fun and fulfilling venture.

In parting, let me be the first and probably not the last to say that attending a bilateral event while stationed here at Yokota Air Base, Japan is a definite "must do" for all ranks and ages.

Chief's Corner

By Chief Master Sgt. Paul Rano
20th Operational Weather Squadron

You're sitting at work at 3 a.m., half-way through another 12-hour shift, and are thinking how it's not fair that you have to be there.

Nothing is going on, and you should be home in bed.

You take a quick look at your Leave and Earnings Statement and moan about how little you are paid for the work you do.

You read a news article that says you could be making much more in the civilian world.

Now it's 3:05 a.m. and you are still half-way through your shift.

Every once in a while we all need to stop and take a look around and appreciate what we do have versus bemoaning what we don't have. Look behind you at where you came from and the family and friends, co-workers and bosses that helped you get to where you are today. Look beside you at your spouse, friends and family that support you everyday

through all your ups and downs.

Many people from Yokota are awake, just as you are, but they are going to sleep on a cot with an MRE, or Meal Ready to Eat, in their belly and there will be constant noise from equipment, vehicles and even gunfire in some places. This is the same stuff they hear during their duty hours, which are probably longer than the 12-hour shift you are on.

And you know what? As bad as they have it, there are people that they are defending or bringing relief supplies to that have it worse than they do.

Consider, also, that the news article you read on pay may not be giving you the whole picture.

Did they count the cost of medical or life insurance that you pay on the outside? Did they figure in the cost of a home or membership at a gym? Did it tell you that you could lose your job in an instant because companies downsize?

Probably not.

Perspective is an interesting word. One of

the definitions of the word is "the appearance to the eye of objects in respect to their relative distance and positions." If you put yourself in someone else's shoes, things may not be as bad.

I was a welfare kid. I can still tell you what color the old plastic food stamp coins used to be. I could give many examples of growing up as part of the lower class, including watching my mother not eat so that her kids could. She always told us that no matter how bad you think you've got it, someone else has it worse.

That was perspective.

So, I thank you for working at 3 a.m. And, if the Air Force is not for you, I thank you for staying and giving 100 percent for the commitment you signed up for. And when you look back on your time in the service, I hope it is with fondness, knowing that you did your part in the defense of our great country.

Something to consider.

Action Line

Action.lines@yokota.af.mil

The Action Line is your direct line to me. Use it if you have questions or comments about Yokota, which couldn't be resolved by your chain of command first. When you send an e-mail, please include your name and phone number so you can be reached if more information is needed.



Col. Mark Schissler
374th Airlift Wing Commander

Dear Col. Schissler, in a culture where millions of Japanese people wear a mask during the allergy season, I do not see how military image is threatened if a military member wears the same mask to deal with the same problem. Military image, I feel, deals also with how non-military members see us and not only on how we see ourselves. For a medical condition common in this country, how can it be strange if a person in uniform wear the

mask to combat the same problem that millions of Japanese people are dealing with everyday? Many times while driving, I had to pull over because a sudden allergy attack would come on. I was wondering what you felt about this and if this is something that the hospital can prescribe to someone who has not received any relief from any medication prescribed.

Thank you very much, sir.

I appreciate your question, but I am unable to give you the answer you'd hoped for: you can wear a mask when in civilian clothes, but not while in uniform. Yours is the first such request I have heard and I cannot hope to gain any satisfaction in such an isolated case and the precedent of allowing an exception to an Air Force Instruction on uniform wear has wide-ranging implications. I spoke to the medical group commander, and if your symptoms bother you, we recommend you seek some medical relief in the form of prescription drugs if that's what the doctor recommends. I am told there are new products on the market that give most people good relief, even on tough days; however, they do not prescribe the white masks you see many Japanese wearing on the streets. I hope your allergies do not keep you from enjoying a beautiful season of the year. You have my best wishes.



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How to reach us

Editorial content is prepared by the 374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 315, Yokota Air Base, Japan.

Phone: 225-8833

Fax: 225-4867

Mail to: 374 AW/PA, Unit 5078, APO AP 96326-5078 or send to: fuji.flyer@yokota.af.mil

Deadlines

The deadline for articles, briefs and classifieds is Wednesday the week before publication. For holidays, the deadline is one day earlier.

Editorial staff

Col. Mark Schissler

374th Airlift Wing commander

Capt. David Westover

Chief, Public Affairs

1st Lt. Warren Comer

Deputy Chief, Public Affairs

1st Lt. Ben Alumbaugh

Chief, Plans and Operations

Staff Sgt. Karen J. Tomasik

Chief, Internal Information

Airman 1st Class

Katie Thomas

Editor

Kaoru Corp. Design Office

Publisher

DUI Prevention

April 20 - April 26	0
Total DUIs in April	0
Total in 2005	4

Punishment

.049 or less = car parked for 12 hours
.05-.079 = 6 months walking
.081-.149 = 1 year walking
0.15 or greater = 2 years walking

Don't
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Taking care of business – everyday

Wing's contracting squadron takes AF level recognition as 'best of best'

By Airman 1st Class Katie Thomas
Editor

According to the 374th Contracting Squadron, they are just doing their job.

According to the Air Force, they did it better than anyone else in 2004.

"I am in awe of the accomplishments of the squadron members and honored to serve with them," said Lt. Col. Wayne Patterson, 374th CONS commander. "Our secret to success is our people, especially the Japanese Nationals."

The squadron boasts nearly 90 employees compared to the average 35 seen at stateside bases. Approximately 60 of these are Japanese nationals.

"The Japanese nationals are the majority of the squadron and provide continuity and stability that we need to support our customers," he said. The squadron saw deployment taskings for military members triple in 2004, but customers didn't notice any lack of service.

"Our Japanese nationals graciously stepped up and accomplished the mission," the colonel said.

Ms. Namiko Kaneko, contract specialist who works with the squadron's construction contracts flight, said the successes of the Japanese Nationals are all an effect of the trust Colonel Patterson places in them.

"A high respect is given to the Japanese nationals who work here and the colonel places his trust in our work and discretion with the requests and contracts," she explained.

As a part of the construction contracts flight, both Ms. Kaneko and fellow flight co-worker, Mr. Chiyonori Shimizu, said they love being able to see the fruits of their work when they are driving around base.

Airmen, Army personnel and U.S. civilians work alongside Japanese Nationals to accomplish a mission that affects how the base operates day-in and day-out.

The squadron assists with \$1.3 billion worth of contracts each year that

fund projects from base gate upgrades to the cleaning services in the Kanto Lodge.

More than 113,000 servicemembers and their dependents stationed in Japan rely on the squadron's capabilities to provide services such as electricity, water, road maintenance, government furniture and much more, said the colonel.

The squadron showed just how well they do their mission with three major accolades in 2004 that climaxed with the Air Force win recently.

The contracting squadron racked up the highest rating possible during the Unit Compliance Inspection in January 2004

with many programs and practices benchmarked by the Pacific Air Forces Inspector General. Inspection reports cited the squadron as operating "virtually flawless," said Colonel Patterson.

They followed up with winning the Department of Defense's David Packard Excellence in Acquisitions Award for how they organized and performed the base Government Travel Card program. The squadron had zero deficiencies in more than 900 accounts, which is PACAF's largest GTC program.

The squadron rounded out the year by assisting with widely-praised effort to clean up the fuel spill at Tokorozawa. The colonel said that the fuel spill was a potential disaster but by openly inviting host nation leaders to watch the clean-up efforts and providing detailed updates to the public, the base won the trust and respect of those leaders.

Not only is the squadron "brilliant at the basics," said Colonel Patterson, but they also have a softer side.

The squadron hosts holiday parties with the Keimi-Gakuen Orphanage, a local organization with 45 youth from infants to teenagers, said Senior Airman Christina Manuel, a contracting specialist and Orphanage Outreach Committee president.

"The children enjoy getting to talk with us in English," she said. "We also invited them to stay in our homes during our homestay program."

Airman Manuel signed on with the Air Force with a guaranteed position as a contracting specialist. She said she enjoys the unique experiences in working with sister services and training exercises.

The squadron couldn't be happier about the recognition, which is the first time it has taken the Air Force-level award, said the colonel.



photo by Airman 1st Class Katie Thomas

A team of contracting specialists from the 374th Contracting Squadron discuss designs and plans for the ongoing family quarters renovations in the east housing area. The squadron recently garnered the title as the Air Force's best contracting squadron in 2004. Lt. Col. Wayne Patterson, the squadron's commander, travelled to Washington, D.C. along with other squadron representatives to be formally recognized for their numerous accomplishments.

AD

Off base

May 14 – The American Embassy is holding a community sidewalk sale from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the embassy's housing compound in Roppongi. Photo identification is required to enter the compound area.

For more information, call 225-7020 or 225-7338.

On base

Movies

Today – *Man of the House*, PG-13, 7 p.m., *Amityville Horror*, R, 9:30 p.m.

Saturday – *The Pacifier*, PG, 2 p.m., *Cursed*, PG-13, 7 p.m., *Amityville Horror*, R, 9:30 p.m.

Sunday – *The Pacifier*, PG, 2 p.m., *Man of the House*, PG-13, 7 p.m.

Monday – *Cursed*, PG-13, 7 p.m.

Tuesday – *The Pacifier*, PG, 7 p.m.

Wednesday – *Man of the House*, PG-13, 7 p.m.

Thursday – *Cursed*, PG-13, 7 p.m.

All movies and showtimes are subject to change without notice. For more information, call 225-8708.

Farewell dinner

The 374th Airlift Wing is holding a farewell dinner for Col. and Mrs. Mark Schissler May 22 beginning at 6 p.m. in the Enlisted Club's Ohsawa Ballroom. The Yokota community is invited to attend the dinner. Interested members should contact their unit's first sergeant by May 9 to make reservations.

Closures

The Furnishings Management Office is offering limited services through May 6 due to office renovations.

Full services will resume May 6 at 7:30 a.m. For more information or an emergency call 225-9114 or 225-8002.

The Housing Flight Office will be closed May 5 at 11:30 a.m. and will reopen May 6 at 7:30 a.m. For more information, call 225-8636.

School registration

The Department of Defense Dependents Schools is holding student registration at the Taiyo Recreation Center Monday through May 6 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Parents should bring DEROS extension letters, passports, birth certificates, and shot records to the registration. Parents can also vote for two representatives for the Yokota High School Advisory Committee. For more information, call 225-3940.

Education

The University of Maryland-University College is providing financial advisement May 3 and academic advisement May 9 to 13. For more information or to make an appointment with an advisor, call 225-8922.

Traffic changes

Motorists driving through the Terminal Gate to the West Gate are no longer permitted to turn right on Jones Avenue. The modified turning lanes exiting the West Gate will continue through May 22 due to force protection upgrades. A map of the construction and traffic patterns around these areas can be found at <http://www.yokota.af.mil>. For more information, call 225-5441.

DRMO sale

DRMO Sagami is hosting a sale May 12 offering furniture, trucks, sedans, golf carts, genera-

tors, scrap and more. Inspection time is 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. May 11, and bidding opens at 8 a.m. May 12. For more information, call 268-4148.

Scholarships

The Honshu chapter of the National Defense Transportation Association is awarding scholarships worth \$250 to \$1,000 to mainland Japan high school students. Students can contact their school counselor for more information. The deadline for submission is May 13.

The Officers' and Enlisted Clubs are offering a \$6,000 scholarship to high school seniors. Interested applicants can pick up an application and brochure at the club starting today. For more information, call 227-8820.

Book fair

The Yokota East Elementary School is holding a spring book fair Monday through May 13 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on weekdays. Community members are welcome to patron the fair.

PTO nominations

The Yokota Middle School's Parent-Teacher Organization* is seeking new officers for this year. Interested members should contact steven.sanchez@pac.dodea.edu by today for more information.

Homeschool fair

The Yokota Homeschool Association* is hosting a homeschool curriculum fair May 7 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Family Support Center. The fair will feature information about homeschooling and resources that are available. E-mail yokotahomeschoolers@hotmail.com for more information.

Fleamarket

The AFN Association* is hosting a fleamarket at the Yujo Recreation Center April 30 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Community members can reserve a table for a nominal fee and sell items during the fleamarket. For more information, e-mail shortyduap@hotmail.com or bcvarga@hotmail.com.

Kensei Warrior



of the Week



Staff Sgt. Scott Worthley

Staff. Sgt. Scott Worthley, 730th Air Mobility Squadron, is this week's Kensei Warrior of the Week for exhibiting the qualities of becoming acquainted with every art, knowing the ways of all professions, developing intuitive judgment and understanding for everything, and lastly do nothing which is of no use.

Sergeant Worthley is an aircraft maintenance craftsman responsible for generating Air Mobility Command missions in and out of Yokota. He used his construction knowledge to enclose his flight's consolidated tool kit, securing more than \$4.5 million dollars in aircraft tools and providing a storage area for sensitive test equipment.

Meetings

The base exchange and commissary advisory board is holding a meeting May 20 at 9 a.m. in building 316. The meeting is open to the base community. Base exchange concerns can be e-mailed to reynoldst@aafes.com. Commissary concerns can be e-mailed to asako.matsushima@deca.mil. Concerns should be mailed prior to the meeting.

YOSC bazaar

The Yokota Officers' Spouses Club* is hosting its annual spring bazaar May 7 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and May 8 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Hangar 15. For more information or to volunteer to help with the bazaar, call 227-8344 or 227-3453. People also can e-mail YOSCBazaarVolunteer@yahoo.com.

Chapel event

The New Life Christian Ministries* is sponsoring a mother and daughter cake and tea event May 7 at the Enlisted Club from 2 to 4 p.m. Daughters are invited to make presentations to their mothers during the event. For more information, call 227-9499 or 227-7178.

Chapel Schedule

Traditional (West) Chapel
Catholic: Reconciliation, Sundays at 8:45 a.m., 4:45 p.m. and by appointment. Mass, Sundays at 9:15 a.m., 5 p.m.; Mondays through Thursdays, 11:30 a.m.

Protestant: Traditional service, Sundays at 11 a.m.; Liturgical service Sundays at 6:30 p.m.; Korean service, Sundays at 2 p.m.

Other faiths: Baha'i, Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

Contemporary (East) Chapel
Protestant: Gospel service, Sundays at 11 a.m.; Contemporary service, Sundays at 5 p.m.

Other faiths: Seventh Day Adventist, second and fourth Saturdays of the month at 9 a.m.; Islam, Fridays at noon.

For more information on the chapel schedule, call 225-7009.

PO disclaimer

An asterisk (*) denotes a private organization. All POs and PO activities are not endorsed by or affiliated with the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force.

Did you know?

An exit and reentry stamp provided by the 374th Security Forces Squadron's customs and immigrations section helps expedite traveling for non-active duty SOFA members. For more information, call 335-8007 or visit the passenger terminal.

AD

“Quotes” & Things

“I’m not a big fan of the polls, but I’m a big fan of the Poles.”

Mike Krzyzewski,
on his Polish descent

Tee Ball clinic: The World Tee Ball Association is hosting a free tee ball clinic at the Ippon-Sugi Baball Park in Tama City Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, call 042-376-1619 or 225-7338.

Tournament: Route 56, an on-base private organization, is hosting a five-man softball tournament May 21 and 22 at Wilkins Field beginning at 8 a.m. The cost is \$50 per team. The event includes a homerun derby that costs \$5 to enter. For more information, call 225-4034 or 225-8943.

Softball: The base men’s varsity softball team is holding try-outs Saturday and Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m. at Wilkins Field. For more information, call 225-4082.

The base women’s varsity softball team is holding try-outs Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to noon at Wilkins Field. For more information, call 225-6202.

Intramural games: Womens’ softball intramural play can be seen at Wilkins Field tonight from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Teams include the 374th Medical Group, 730th Air Mobility Squadron and Yokota Enlisted Spouses Club.

Mens’ softball intramurals are played Mondays through Thursdays from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Wilkins and Yokota Fields.

Tennis: The West Youth Center is offering beginner tennis instruction starting Thursday at the west housing tennis courts. For more information, call 225-6397.

Community hosts Special Olympics

More than 400 athletes expected from DoDDS, Japanese schools

By Airman 1st Class Katie Thomas
Editor

Yokota is opening its gates to the annual Kanto Plain Special Olympics May 7 and 8.

Hundreds of volunteers from the base support the event, which features 42 different sport competitions.

“The event increases host nation relations and provides a safe and friendly environment for the special athletes,” said 1st Lt. Kenneth Raszinski, 374th Services Division and event coordinator.

The opening ceremony for the Special Olympics will be at Yokota High School’s Bonk Field at 9:15 a.m. May 7. Sports events during the Olympics will be held in the school’s facilities, the base Natatorium and other locations across base.

The community donates money to support the event each year to help house and feed the Special Olympiads, he said. People also volunteer to be huggers, greeters, statisticians and more during the Olympics itself. Additionally, funds are used to purchase medals for every participant in each event.

“Children and adults with intellectual disabilities who participate in the Special Olympics develop improved physical fitness, motor skills, greater self-esteem and a more positive self image,” said the lieutenant. “They grow mentally, socially, spiritually and exhibit boundless courage and enthusiasm through the activities.

“They enjoy the rewards of friendship and ultimately discover not only new abilities and talents, but ‘their voices’ as well.”



photo by Senior Airman Corey McCutchin

Community volunteers cheer on Special Olympiads during the basketball competition at the 2004 Kanto Plain Special Olympics here.

Special Olympiads participate in events including running, long jump, softball throw, basketball, swimming and more.

Community members who wish to volunteer during this year’s Special Olympics can contact their unit point-of-contact.

They can also sign up during the Olympics in the Yokota High School gymnasium.

For more information about the event, community members can call Capt. Maribel Harmon at 225-8383 or Lieutenant Raszinski at 225-9600.

Base SFS rides circles around safety

Squadron hosts first bike rodeo, features giveaways, road course

By Airman 1st Class Katie Thomas
Editor

When it comes to bicycle safety, the 374th Security Forces Squadron and other agencies here don’t tread lightly.

The squadron is hosting the first bike rodeo Saturday at the Four Seasons in the west housing area from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The event includes a bike giveaway and food court coupons from the Army and Air Force Exchange Service and Four Seasons for rodeo participants, said Douglas Blair, 374th SFS chief of resource protection.

A bike road course will be set up at the rodeo to test how well riders know the rules of the road, said Senior Airman Joseph Null,

374th SFS crime prevention manager. Volunteers will be stationed in the course area to guide riders through proper stopping, yielding and riding rules and techniques.

Community members can also register their bikes with the squadron throughout the rodeo. The process takes only five minutes and the registered decal that is placed on the bikes significantly aids security forces Airmen in returning stolen and missing bikes, said Airman Null.

Representatives from the 374th Medical Group’s Health And Wellness Center will be on hand to give bicyclists information on common mishaps and trends.

The 374th Airlift Wing’s safety office will advise community members on bike safety,

said Mr. Blair. The office will speak on base rules and safety precautions that base bicyclists should observe while commuting. Community members are reminded that they must properly wear a helmet while riding a bike to decrease the chance of injury, he said.

The Four Seasons will offer bike inspections and minor repairs to participants. Volunteers will tighten loose bolts, refill air in bike tires, check gears for possible defects and grease bike chains.

Yokota’s fifth grade students will be competing in a poster contest during the rodeo also. A top male and female winner will be chosen and each awarded a bike courtesy of the Four Seasons, said Airman Null. A third bike will be given away during a drawing at the rodeo also.

“Bike safety is always important,” said Airman Null. “Children need to know how to properly ride their bikes and wear equipment because serious injuries can happen in the event of an accident.”

AD